

## Trailway News 6



**The Trailway in snow**

This is a snowy picture to remind you of what February was like.

Although it is not apparent the first working party in January cleared quite a bit of the scrub away under the trees which mean that you can see the path disappearing into the distance. The clearance has not changed the wooded nature of this section but hopefully will reduce the amount of leaf litter on the track and make it more cycle friendly. It has also maintained the width of the track so people can walk abreast or pass each other without difficulty.

### Clearing the Trailway at Gains Cross on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb



**The Trailway at Gains Cross after the working party**

In spite of the cold the working party cleared a section of the Trailway which was covered in brambles near the farm at Gains Cross.

In the top picture you can see Giles Nicholson in the foreground and other members of the party in the background slashing away the brambles ready for a bonfire.

In the lower picture the results of all the efforts show a cleared path. Unfortunately though it is passable it has not been surfaced so is useable by walkers and horses but cyclists may find themselves with a puncture.

**The Blandford to Stourpaine section** Scot Norman and Keith Yarwood from Stourpaine have been busy on the section between Blandford and Stourpaine. The line of the old railway is evident and not much clearance or improvement is needed to bring it up to standard as a usable trail. There is a tunnel under the Blandford bypass that links the path from the Mill Down to this section. The picture at the foot of the page shows some of this section. As is usually the case; rights of way are not straight forward. Once these are obtained the link between Blandford and the northern villages gets closer.

The tunnel under the A350 is still in good repair and belongs to British Rail. It can be seen as you leave the bridge over the Stour at Durweston and start to climb the hill on the A350 towards Stourpaine by the two brick parapets on either side of the road

**Fun Run and Barbeque** As we had such a successful Fun Run and BBQ last year we plan for this year one on Stour Meadows for the 12<sup>th</sup> July which is a Sunday. The run will start at Spetisbury School and go through Charlton Marshall then along the Trailway to Stour Meadows where we hope to have a picnic, barbeque, entertainment and prize giving to the winner of the run. We also hope to involve the schools in a sponsored walk/cycle to raise money for the Trailway

**Sustrans officer for Dorset.** The new Sustrans officer for Dorset is Richard Rider and he is attached to Andrew Bradley in Dorchester. I hope he will join our efforts to make the Trailway a long distance reality. Unfortunately Sustrans bid for money from the Rural Development Fund for money for the bridge over the Stour at Gains Cross was not successful. We shall have to look elsewhere for funds but we must not give up on this most important link in growing chain of the Trailway.

**Comedy Night Jackie Woon is organising a Comedy Night at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March in the evening. The proceeds are to go to the Trailway and to an AIDS Orphans Charity in Zimbabwe. Please tell as many of your neighbours as possible and support the event too if you can. It should be an entertaining evening for all.**



**Nutford Barn section of the Trailway near the Blandford bypass**

*All the photographs were taken by Graham Rains*